



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
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June 8, 2010

The recently signed SFY supplemental budget includes ample funding for DDD transition services; DDD's transition funding covers over 1000 transition students graduating in the 2009-11 biennium. The proviso increases DDD's capacity to add 629 people on a Waiver. This is very good news for transition students. Because transition students are covered by this new funding, it also means that a lot more people will have access to long term supports for employment with existing funding.

As we coordinate services with DDD, DVR will continue to follow the guidelines identified by Kelly Franklin, Chief of Field Services, in her January 13, 2010 all staff e-mail. Those guidelines are:

1. DVR will continue to take applications, determine eligibility and begin the assessment of VR needs regardless of funding status. As part of the assessment of VR needs, the DVR Counselor will work collaboratively with the DD county coordinator and/or case manager to determine whether supported employment is required and the nature and extent of long term support needed.
2. For individuals on a waiver: if it is determined that supported employment is required, DVR will initiate a request for long-term support at the DDD regional level. DDD must approve the request prior to DVR finalizing an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).
3. For non-waiver customers: DVR will verify the funding status with the DDD case manager to determine if the individual has moved to waiver status. If the individual is in non-waiver status, DVR will explore the option for DDD long-term funding or for alternate sources of long term support.

The VR Counselor will consult with the VR Supervisor prior to finalizing an IPE for these cases. This will facilitate a review of the identified source of long term support and the likelihood that viable supports will be available at the time the customer begins employment. DVR cannot place an individual in supported employment without a viable resource for meeting the customer's long term support needs. If no viable source of long-term support can be identified that meets the individual's needs, the VR Counselor will consult with the customer and his/her representative, the DD county coordinator and/or case manager regarding case closure.

If an individual is referred to DVR who is already in a job (or is about to start a new job) and needs VR services, DVR will move forward with eligibility and pre-plan activities. The VR Counselor will work with the DD case manager to request approval for long-term support. Once DDD notifies DVR of approval, DVR can finalize an IPE and initiate services.

While funding for transition services is adequate in this supplemental budget, such may not always be the case. Adherence to the guidelines will sustain best practices that ensure active communication between DDD/DVR field staff and customers. Everyone being engaged and on the same page will increase the likelihood of success for mutual customers.

Respectfully,

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